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St George + St James 1817

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# Plan

OF THE

# GENERAL DISPENSARY,

AT NO. 14, IN

## OLD BURLINGTON-STREET,

*Established 17th February,* 1817;

FOR AFFORDING

GRATUITOUS ADVICE AND MEDICINES TO THE SICK POOR,

FOR THE

*TREATMENT OF INFANTILE COMPLAINTS,*

AND

FOR ATTENDING LYING-IN WOMEN AT THEIR OWN HABITATIONS;

WITHIN THE PARISHES OF

ST. GEORGE, HANOVER-SQUARE,

AND

ST. JAMES, WESTMINSTER.

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SUPPORTED BY VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS, AND LEGACIES.

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LONDON:

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1817.

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Dr. Ash, No. 11, Argyll-street.

PHYSICIANS.

Dr. George Gregory, No. 23, Mortimer-street.

Dr Clores. 9. Queen St. Mayfair.

SURGEONS.

Henry Jeffreys, Esq. No. 33, Clarges-street.

Samuel Daniel Broughton, Esq. No. 10, Argyll-street.

SURGEON-ACCOUCHEUR.

Richard Blagden, Esq. No. 13, Duke-street, St. James's.

APOTHECARY.

Mr. John Bissett, at the Dispensary, No. 14, Old Burlington-street.

SECRETARY.

Mr. James Hurtle Fisher, No. 7, Little Maddox-street, Hanover-square.

COLLECTORS.

For the Parish of St. George, Hanover-square, Mr. John Leeson, No. 41, Davies-street, Berkeley-square.

For the Parish of St. James, Westminster, Mr. Joseph Toogood, No. 8, Dufour's-place, Broad-street.

# ADDRESS.

In laying before the Governors of the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, the following code of Rules and Orders for its management and good government, the Committee, to whom the charge of framing it was confided, have considered that they would render their labours more complete, by previously submitting to the notice of the Governors and of the Public a few general facts and considerations, tending to point out the circumstances which have led to its establishment, to illustrate the peculiar advantages which an Institution of this nature possesses, and to suggest the means which may render it extensively and permanently useful.

1. The accumulation of distress among the labouring classes, which has for some time past been so generally felt and acknowledged, and to which the

charity of this country has been extended with so liberal a hand, if it has not occasioned any real increase of sickness in the lower orders, is at least the cause why the number of applications for admission into the hospitals at this end of the Town has of late increased so considerably. A large proportion of those thus applying are every week, owing to want of accommodation, unavoidably rejected or postponed, to the great detriment of the patients themselves, and to the aggravation of that distress which originally compelled them to have recourse to the assistance of a Public Charity. But independently of this consideration, which being in its nature temporary, may not be thought a sufficient ground for the establishment of another means of Relief to the Sick Poor in this District, a question arises, whether the provision made for it is at any time adequate to the demand?

In the western parts of this town there are but three general hospitals for the reception of in-patients, viz. St. George's, the Middlesex, and the Westminster, which altogether do not accommodate more than 420 patients, whilst those of St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, and Guy's, are calculated to receive at least five times that number. The Committee is indeed well aware of the beneficial influence of the Parochial Infirmaries, and of the provision made, and within these few weeks consi-

derably extended, by which out-patients are enabled to participate in the benefits of such Charities; but this latter circumstance, while it reflects the highest credit on the benevolence of those whose exertions have thus been directed to provide the best assistance for the Sick and Necessitous Poor, is a proof at the same time, that in their opinion something further was required, nor will it be the least praise of an institution of this nature, that it co-operates in giving effect to their humane intentions.

In the two extensive parishes of St. George, Hanover-square, and St. James, Westminster, containing between them a population little short of 80,000 persons, it has, under these circumstances, been thought expedient to establish a DISPENSARY upon a liberal scale, the *visiting limits* of which should be confined to the above Parishes, it appearing, from their extent and population, that the attentions of the Medical Gentlemen could not *efficaciously* be extended further.

While such are the views which have led to the formation of the ST. GEORGE'S AND ST. JAMES'S DISPENSARY, the Committee at the same time wish to press the consideration, that the benevolent designs of the Institution will be more fully met, and that the interests of the Public will be better consulted, if the Inhabitants of the surrounding Parishes, following the example of many respectable indivi-

duals among them, will come forward in its support, and send to the Dispensary patients requiring Medical or Surgical Relief. They may be assured that they will there receive all the attention which their cases require, and to which the Poor of the parishes of St. George and St. James are from its constitution more particularly entitled.

2. The utility of Dispensaries being now so generally acknowledged, and no where more than in this City, where there are several, which by their character and the distinguished support they enjoy, bear ample testimony to the policy and the usefulness of the design, it will be unnecessary to enter at any length into the peculiar advantages of such a species of Medical Charity, but a slight illustration of the subject may not be without its use. Giving to public hospitals all the praise and credit which they so justly deserve, we may yet fairly assert, that setting aside the consideration of the small proportion which their number and accommodations bear to the population for which they are intended, there are a variety of cases requiring medical and surgical aid which are unfit for a public hospital, and to which such relief can in no way be so well afforded as through the medium of a Dispensary. We allude to persons with complaints, slight indeed at first, and which treated in their early and manageable

stages are attended with little or no risk, but which by neglect or delay become obstinate and dangerous:—to persons in the labouring classes, who still enjoy such a portion of health as permits them to follow their usual occupations:—to persons whose circumstances may enable them to provide many things necessary for their proper management, but whose little savings might be exhausted by the charges for medicine and medical attendance:—to persons afflicted with tedious complaints, or with complaints liable to continual recurrence, whose sufferings may be *alleviated* at least under proper medical care:—to persons, lastly, whom it would be impossible, or difficult, or highly distressing to separate from their homes, more particularly servants, the mothers of families of young children, and the infant children of the poor themselves, the treatment of whose complaints will form a prominent feature in the views of this Charity, the urgent demand for it in this district being, as we find, very universally acknowledged. The importance of cherishing in every possible way the strong feeling of attachment among the lower orders towards their children, is not to be overlooked, when considering the benefits to be derived from the attendance upon sick mothers and their families, *without the necessity of their separation.* To the lying-in woman this Institution is calculated to afford equal

advantages, and to all who apply, the gratifying assurance is held out, that if unable through the pressure of disease to attend personally at the Dispensary, they will receive the necessary advice at their own bedsides.

In pointing out the advantages of Institutions of this nature, the comparatively small expense at which they are conducted deserves also to be noticed. The subscriptions by which they are supported are proportionably low, while the quantity of human suffering which they mitigate or remove is great; the relief they afford being in some cases more *immediate* than could be obtained in any other way, and the manner of it less grating to the commendable delicacy of many, who from accidental disease are compelled to have recourse to charitable assistance. The money contributed for the purposes of a Charity like this, economically and effectually applied to their relief, will save many individuals and families from the necessity of applying to other sources of aid more burdensome to the rich, and not more serviceable to themselves, and above all from a dependence on the parish.

3. The objects in view in the present undertaking are—the gratuitous distribution of Medicines, and of Medical and Surgical Advice—the Encouragement of Vaccination—the Prevention and Cure

of Infantile Diseases—and the Delivery of Poor Married Women at their own Habitations. The means by which it is to be supported are the Voluntary Subscriptions, Donations, and Legacies of the charitable and humane in this part of the Metropolis; and the Committee hope that the facts and considerations now submitted to the Public will excite their attention and call forth their support. The Rules and Orders which follow will sufficiently point out the principles upon which the Institution will be governed, and the details under the respective Divisions will serve to shew, that in framing them the Committee have profited by the experience of those who have preceded them in this description of charity, offering thereby an earnest of their anxiety to give to this Institution all the extent and permanency of benefit of which its design is susceptible.

To that part of the Subscribers, whose sex best qualifies them to sympathize with the sufferings of one portion of those for whose relief this Dispensary has been established, it is respectfully suggested that contributions of Child-bed Linen and Baby Clothes, in addition to their Subscriptions, would be of the most essential benefit.

The Committee, in conclusion, beg to state, that though it would have been easy for them in this Address to have interested the *feelings* of the Public in behalf of an Institution of this nature, they have

thought it better to address themselves to its unprejudiced judgment, well persuaded that when its establishment shall have been generally known, the necessity of it will be as generally acknowledged. Under this impression they solicit the support of the Inhabitants of this part of the Town to an Institution, calculated to afford early and effectual assistance to the Sick Poor—to relieve the Public Hospitals, Charities, and Parochial Workhouses, from the heavy pressure now made on them—and to lessen the demands on the Poor Rates, which have already reached to so serious an extent.

# RULES AND ORDERS.

1. This Charity shall consist of a Patron and Patroness, a President, Vice-Presidents, two Treasurers, and Governors.

2. All persons paying One Guinea or more annually shall be Governors, with the right of having always one patient upon the books at a time, and one lying-in patient in the year for each guinea subscribed, provided the payment be not in arrear more than six months. Such subscription to be paid in advance, and to be always considered as continued until notified to the contrary, either personally or in writing, to the Monthly Committee.. If, however, any patient shall have been three months on the books, the Governor who recommended such patient shall be at liberty to recommend another.

3. All persons giving a benefaction of Ten Guineas at one time, or making up their contribution to that sum within the year, shall be Governors for life, with the privilege of having one patient constantly on the books, and two lying-in patients in the year. Persons giving Twenty Guineas, or making up their contribution in two payments to that sum, may have two patients on the books at one time, and four lying-in patients in the year, and so on for every larger donation in proportion.

4. Upon payment of a legacy of Fifty Pounds or upwards to this Charity, the Executor first named in the will shall be a Governor for life.

5. Subscribers shall be furnished with printed Letters for the admission of patients, which, on being given to a patient, must be signed by the Governor recommending.

6. The Apothecary, Collectors, and Messenger, are always to be in waiting at the time of the General Meetings, Monthly Committees, and Elections, to answer such questions and do such business as may be required of them.

7. No officer or servant of this Charity shall presume to take of any tradesman, patient, or Governor, any fee, reward, or gratuity, either directly or indirectly, for services done or to be done on account of this Dispensary, on pain of being discharged.

8. No new salary, nor increase of salary or gratuity, exceeding the sum of Five Guineas, shall be voted to an officer or servant of this Charity, except at the Annual General Meeting; a recommendation to that effect having been made at a previous meeting of the Monthly Committee, and confirmed at a subsequent meeting; the Secretary, on convening this subsequent meeting, having apprized the members of the said recommendation.

9. There shall be no alteration made in the fundamental laws for the government of this Charity, except at the General Meetings; and any alteration that may be made shall not be deemed valid, until confirmed at a subsequent General Meeting.

## GENERAL MEETINGS.

1. At all General Meetings seven Governors are necessary to constitute a Board.

2. A General Quarterly Meeting shall be holden at twelve o'clock at noon, on the first Thursday in July, October, January, and April.

3. The Patron, the President, any two of the Vice-Presidents, or the Treasurers, shall have power to call a General Meeting at any time, giving not less than one week's notice thereof by a circular letter, to be sent by the Secretary to every Governor, specifying the reason for convening such Meeting; and if the Monthly Committee on any occasion shall desire a General Meeting, the Patron, the President, two of the Vice-Presidents, or the Treasurers (upon a request being made in writing) shall call one ac-

cordingly. All special business, for which an extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened, shall be first entered upon, and determined or adjourned, before any other business be proposed.

4. At every General Meeting in April, a Committee of not less than twenty-five Governors, three of whom are a quorum, shall be chosen to meet at the Dispensary on the last Thursday in every month, at twelve at noon, for conducting the ordinary affairs of the Charity during the ensuing year; the Patron, President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, and Medical Officers, shall be members of all Committees.

5. As a part of the business of the Annual General Meeting, a Report of the State of the Finances, and of the Number of Patients admitted, relieved, cured, and discharged, during the preceding year, shall be prepared for the information of the Subscribers at large.

6. No Subscriber shall have a vote in any matter or question wherein he is personally interested.

## MONTHLY COMMITTEES.

1. At all Monthly Committees three Governors shall constitute a quorum.

2. The collector's and tradesmen's accounts shall be audited by the Monthly Committee quarterly, and the tradesmen's bills, if approved of, ordered to be forthwith paid.

3. All acts of the Committee shall be reported to the next Quarterly General Meeting, and such as require confirmation shall be submitted for that purpose.

4. The Monthly Committee shall appoint quarterly three House Visitors from amongst themselves, to visit the Dispensary as often as may be requisite, to inspect the conduct of the officers and servants, to see that the patients behave with strict propriety, and that the business of the Charity is conducted in conformity to the Regulations; and at the monthly meeting of the Committee to report such matters as they shall think necessary.

5. The Monthly Committee shall have power to appoint a Sub-committee, for special purposes, whenever they may think necessary.

6. All complaints of the patients, respecting any of the officers or servants of this Dispensary, shall be made to the Committee, or any one of them, or in writing to the Secretary.

7. One of the Treasurers, or any three Members of this Committee, may at any time by writing authorize the Secretary to summon a special meeting of the Monthly Committee, who shall convene the same accordingly by a circular letter, addressed to each Member thereof.

## THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. At all meetings of the Governors the Chair shall be taken at the hour specified in the summons, provided a quorum be present.

2. The minutes of the preceding meeting shall be read.

3. To prevent misunderstanding at any meeting respecting the subject of debate, the resolution moved shall be put in writing before the Chairman submit it to the vote, or determination of the Governors present.

4. The Chairman at each meeting shall subscribe his name to the fair minutes or resolutions, which shall have been made during the antecedent meeting, having previously seen that the same do correspond in all material points with the original minutes.

## MEDICAL COMMITTEE.

A Medical Committee shall be appointed at the Quarterly General Meeting in October, to consist of not less than five Governors, who are Members of the Royal College of Physicians or Surgeons, or of the Apothecaries' Company, any two of whom shall have power to order and inspect the medicines, examine the druggist's bills, and report, as they shall see occasion, to the Monthly Committee.

## ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES.

1. In case of any office becoming vacant, the Secretary shall, within the next seven days, summon a special meeting of the Monthly Committee, giving three days previous notice, at which meeting such vacancy shall be declared, and a time appointed for the election of a new officer, to take place in not less than twenty-one days next after such declaration, public notice thereof being immediately given, as well as of the day and hour, of the intended election, in three of the daily papers, at least two different times in each; and in any other manner the Committee may think proper.

2. The majority of the House Visitors by written instructions may supply any vacancy *pro tempore*, excepting the Collector, who may, for the like time, be appointed by the Treasurers.

3. The qualifications of any Physician or Surgeon offering himself as a candidate shall be determined at a meeting of the Monthly Committee, and whoever may be approved by a majority shall be furnished with a correct list of the Governors entitled to vote.

4. The election of the Apothecary shall be subject to the above Rule.

5. The names of candidates declared to be ineligible shall not appear on the minutes of the said Committee.

6. After the 1st of January, 1818, no Governor who shall be six calendar months in arrear shall be entitled to vote at any election, nor any new Governor, whose subscription shall not have been paid at least three calendar months previous to the day of election.

7. Ladies subscribing to this Charity may vote by proxy under their own signature.

## REGULATIONS AT ELECTIONS.

1. The Chair shall be taken at twelve o'clock; the Secretary shall provide an accurate list of the Subscribers to

the Charity entitled to vote, and a sufficient number of each of the candidates names, written or printed, on a small piece of paper.

2. Every person offering to vote shall deliver a paper, containing the name of the candidate for whom he intends to vote, into the hands of the Chairman, who shall deposit the same in a box or glass to be provided for that purpose.

3. The Secretary shall write down the name of each Governor entitled to ballot, as the votes are taken; and if any person shall offer to ballot, whose right to do so may appear dubious, or shall be objected against, the Chairman shall indorse such person's name on the paper he delivers in, and lay the same aside, to be allowed or rejected by the majority of the Governors present, after all the other votes shall have been taken.

4. At the close of the ballot the number of papers shall be counted, and the Chairman, first announcing who has the majority of votes, shall declare such person to be duly elected.

5. All disputes concerning elections shall be determined by a majority of the Governors then present.

6. In all cases of an equality of votes, the Chairman for the time being shall be entitled to a second or casting-vote.

7. In every case where two or more ballotting tickets may happen to be folded together, they shall both or all be laid aside, and not counted in the ballot.

8. The doors of the balloting-room shall be closed when the Chairman's watch shall have completed the hour of three.

9. If any person shall be in the balloting-room at the time of closing the doors, who shall not have balloted, he shall be permitted to do so immediately, although the hour of three may have passed by the Chairman's watch.

## TREASURERS.

1. The Treasurers shall issue to the Collectors printed receipts, properly numbered, and take an acknowledgment or check for the same. They shall order the Collectors to pay into their hands, or the Bankers of the Institution, the

money they may have received every month, or oftener, as they may think proper, and to pay such tradesmen's bills as the General Meeting or Monthly Committee shall, by a written order, direct.

2. They shall exhibit an accurate statement of their accounts to the Committee directed to audit the same, and the money remaining in their hands shall be invested, under proper Trustees, in the Public Funds, or on Government Securities, if the General Meeting shall deem it expedient.

## PHYSICIANS.

1. They must have obtained a qualification to practice Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians, London, or from the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, and no Physician practising in any other branch of the profession shall be considered as eligible to this Charity.

2. They must attend at the Dispensary on such days and hours as the Monthly Committee deem requisite, and visit those patients at their own habitations who are unable to meet them at the Dispensary, according to the rules prescribed in the printed recommendatory letters.

## SURGEONS.

1. They are to be Members of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and no Surgeon practising in Pharmacy or Midwifery shall be deemed eligible to this Institution.

2. They shall conform to the Rules of the Dispensary, in the same manner as the Physicians.

## ACCOUCHEUR.

He must be a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, or a Licentiate of the College of Physicians. He shall attend at the Dispensary two days in the week, or as often as may be thought necessary by the Monthly Com-

mittee, to prescribe for those patients who may come under his immediate charge. He shall superintend and direct the conduct of the Midwives, and give his assistance in all cases of difficulty or danger.

## APOTHECARY.

1. He shall constantly reside at the Dispensary, and receive the printed letters of recommendation; and compound and dispense the Medicines in the exact form prescribed by the Physicians and Surgeons.

2. He shall enter the tradesmen's bills in a ledger, and keep the accounts respecting the same.

3. He shall take care of the medicines, surgical instruments, and other articles of the Dispensary, and be responsible that none be wasted, spoiled, or embezzled.

4. He shall see that the apartments are kept in proper order for the accommodation of such persons who have a right to resort thereto.

5. He shall on no account whatsoever attend any other professional business than that of the Dispensary, nor absent himself from the house for more than two hours at a time, without leaving a sufficient Substitute until his return; and he shall always leave in writing notice of where he is to be found.

6. He shall keep regular books with a register of the patients cured and under cure, whether belonging to a Physician or Surgeon, whether visited at home, or attending at the Dispensary, on whose recommendation admitted, and when discharged.

7. For these services he shall receive a salary of £80. per annum, to be paid quarterly; and be provided with furnished apartments, coals, and candles, under the direction of the Monthly Committee.

8. The Apothecary shall be allowed to take two apprentices, to be approved by the Monthly Committee, provided no charge is thereby incurred to the Dispensary.

## MIDWIVES.

1. A competent number of experienced Midwives, resident at different parts of the two Parishes, shall be appointed by the Monthly Committee, to attend such lying-in women as may be recommended, and shall receive such remuneration as the Monthly Committee shall think proper.

2. In difficult labours requiring assistance, the Midwife attending shall send for the Accoucheur of this Charity, and to no other person, on pain of being dismissed.

## SECRETARY.

1. He shall attend all Meetings and Elections at the appointed hour, unless unavoidably prevented, in which case he shall provide an approved Deputy to act in his place.

2. He shall keep minutes of the proceedings of this Charity accurately and methodically, and transact all such other business as is usual for Secretaries in similar Institutions.

3. For his services he shall receive £40. a year.

## COLLECTORS.

1. They shall find two sureties, to be approved of by the Treasurers and the Monthly Committee, to be bound with them in a bond to the Treasurers in the penal sum of £100, for the faithful discharge of the duties of their office.

2. They shall regularly collect the subscriptions to this Charity as they become due, giving a printed receipt for the same, signed by one of the Treasurers and themselves, keep a correct list thereof, and pay the same into the hands of the Treasurers, or to the account of the Dispensary at the Bankers, as often as may be required by the Treasurers or Monthly Committee.

3. They shall attend all General Meetings, Committees, and Audits.

4. They shall leave with the Secretary, and also with the Apothecary at the Dispensary, the names of all the new Governors, and their places of abode, as soon as possible after the payment of their subscriptions, and also the names of those Governors who may have died or withdrawn their subscriptions.

5. They shall deliver printed Letters of Recommendation, a copy of the Laws of the Charity, and a List of the Names of Subscribers to all new Governors.

6. They shall call occasionally during the course of each week at the Dispensary, and on the Secretary, to know if their services are required on any business.

7. They shall receive for their services £5. per cent. on all annual subscriptions, and One Shilling for every ten guineas paid as a donation.

## PATIENTS.

1. All poor persons, not excluding servants, are deemed proper objects of this Charity, who really require medical or surgical aid.

2. The Dispensary shall be open for the reception of letters of recommendation, and the relief of patients, every day in the week (Sundays excepted) until twelve o'clock at noon; after which hour no more letters or patients shall be admitted, casualties excepted.

3. No restriction as to place of residence shall be imposed on patients capable of attending personally at the Dispensary; but the visits of the Medical Officers to patients at their own homes, shall be confined to the limits of the two Parishes of *St. George, Hanover-square,* and *St. James, Westminster.*

4. All accidents and cases of real emergency shall be admitted on the books of this Charity, at the discretion of the Medical Officers in attendance.

5. Patients may be inoculated for the Cow-pock, without a letter of recommendation, on applying at the Dispensary for that purpose at the hours of medical attendance.

*Form of a Recommendatory Letter for the Patients.*

*Day of* 181 .

GENTLEMEN,

I recommend the Bearer
risiding in the Parish of , as a proper
Patient for the Dispensary.

Your obedient servant,

To the Medical Officers of the
St. George's and St. James's
Dispensary.

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N. B. Letters of Recommendation must be presented by the Patients at the Dispensary, in Old Burlington-street, by Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon.

*** A Physician and Surgeon attend at the Dispensary every day in the week, at Twelve o'clock (Sundays excepted).

☞ Accidents and Cases of Emergency are admissible, at the discretion of the Medical Officers ; and persons may be inoculated for the Cow-pock without Letters of Recommendation.

*Ladies will confer great benefit on the Charity by contributing Child-bed Linen and Baby Clothes, and Old Linen for the use of Surgical Patients.*

Subscriptions and Donations are received by the Treasurers, JOHN CHAMIER, Esq. No. 43, Grosvenor-place, and JOHN WILLOCK, Esq. No. 25, Golden-square; by Mr. BISSETT, the Apothecary, at the Dispensary; by Mr. J. H. FISHER, the Secretary, No. 7, Little Maddox-street, Hanover-square; by Mr. JOHN LEESON, No. 41, Davies-street, Berkeley-square, and Mr. JOSEPH TOOGOOD, No. 8, Dufour's-place, the Collectors; and by the following Bankers, viz. Messrs. BIRCH and CHAMBERS, New Bond-street; MARTEN, CALL, and Co. Old Bond-street; HERRIES and Co. St. James's-street; HAMMERSLEY and Co. MORLAND and Co. PAXTON and Co. and Messrs. HOPKINSONS, Pall-mall.

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